



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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### CDVA PROJECTS FOR VETERANS MOVING ALONG NICELY

#### GREATER LOS ANGELES VENTURA COUNTY PROJECT

The Public Works Board also recently approved a change of scope and cost for the Greater Los Angeles Ventura County (GLAVC) project to reflect a 520-bed project across the three sites at a total project cost of \$235,041,000.

#### REDDING AND FRESNO FUTURE VETERANS HOMES

CDVA has received notice from the California Public Works Board this morning that it had approved \$134,000 in bond funds to finance the due diligence costs for the acquisition of the future Redding and Fresno veterans' homes sites. The department is hopeful that the Public Works Board will take action in February or March to actually accept the donation of the sites.

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### HOLIDAY CALLING CARD CAMPAIGN FOR THE TROOPS

As you and your families begin the holiday season, we encourage you to take time to appreciate the many blessings and freedoms that allow us to celebrate in so many diverse and wonderful ways.

This time of year brings many opportunities for each of us to reach out beyond our own wants and needs to help those around us. We are proud of our fellow Californians who organize Food Drives, "Toys for Tots" collections, the State Employees Charitable Campaign and the many other generous efforts we all support.

This year, the California Military Department and the California Department of Veterans Affairs have followed the lead of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver in a phone card campaign for our troops overseas.

We are asking that our fellow veterans remember those Californians serving in the military away from their families by sending calling cards instead of the traditional socks, toothbrushes or food. We've been told that the number one item requested by soldiers this year is a calling card. By giving the gift of a phone card, our men and women in uniform, whether they are Active, Guard or Reserve, or in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard can be in touch with family and friends during this special time.

If you are interested in joining with us and supporting our brave troops with a calling card, there are two very easy purchase options listed below. The Segovia calling plan is recommended for California National Guard troops in Iraq.

Whatever you decide to do, Major General Thomas W. Eres, Adjutant General of the California National Guard, and I thank you for sharing the bounty we enjoy here in California with those serving our nation during this holiday season. Thank you and may you and your loved ones enjoy a peaceful holiday season and a healthy and happy new year!

**TOM JOHNSON**  
**SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## **Option 1**

### **Army/Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES & AT&T)**

- You can purchase the prepaid calling cards from the following website:  
<https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx>
- You can select the number of minutes, the type of card and where/to whom card is sent:
  1. Troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom.
  2. Deployed, wounded and hospitalized service members.
  3. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Air Force members and their families.
  4. USO programs supporting military members.
- Service from Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan is 28 cents per minute with these cards

## **Option 2**

### **Segovia IP Satellite Network Phone Systems (recommended for members of the California National Guard)**

- You can purchase prepaid calling card minutes and a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the following website: [http://www.segoviaip.com/dsp\\_purch\\_introduction.asp](http://www.segoviaip.com/dsp_purch_introduction.asp)
- After the calling card minutes are purchased, the PIN (and amount of calling time purchased) should be sent via email to the California National Guard at [callingcardgift@ca.ngb.army.mil](mailto:callingcardgift@ca.ngb.army.mil). The National Guard will distribute the PIN number and calling card information to the specific California troop(s) overseas.
- The email subject line must say "Calling Card" and the PIN and \$ amount of the card should be in the email text.
- This service is available from Iraq only, and the cost is 4 cents per minute.

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## **TWO WAYS TO REACH OUT TO THE WOUNDED IN RECENT CONFLICTS**

### **1. WARRIOR ROOM FUND**

Today more than 174,000 active duty and 37,000 reserve Marines protect the United States of America. A significant percentage of them deploy overseas to bravely serve our nation in hotbeds of violence like Iraq and Afghanistan. Department of Defense statistics indicate more than 2000 Marines have been wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Many of these wounded warriors are returned to the Naval Regional Medical Centers at Balboa or Camp Pendleton until they recover enough to be given leave. To house these Marines, Warrior Rooms have been set up in barracks throughout Camp Pendleton. Medical care and some amenities have been provided by Marine Corps Community Services, but much more is needed. The First Marine Division Readiness office has been designated as the collection point for donations. Because DOD regulations preclude accepting money, all donations must be in kind.

The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation has been asked to act as a clearinghouse to match requirements to resources. Several of Fleet Week's sponsors made cash donations, which have purchased and delivered much needed items.

If you would like to contribute to the Warrior Room Fund, you may do so through the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation. Simply mail your fully tax deductible donation to:

**Fleet Week Foundation**  
5330 Napa Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

## **2. INJURED MARINE SEMPER FI FUND**

Injury to a Marine causes an immediate crisis for their entire family. Loved ones will travel at a moment's notice, and often a great distance, to be at the bedside of their wounded Marine. While they support their Marine, families stay in hotels, drive rental cars, pay for three meals a day, and incur numerous additional living expenses. Not infrequently, one or more family members have to take leave without pay from their job. These circumstances create an unexpected financial hardship during what is already a very stressful time.

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund provides grants and other resources to injured Marines, Sailors, and their families. The fund works closely with the Marine Corps, Navy, and hospitals nationwide to identify and assess the needs of specific families. For more information contact [kgimsf@aol.com](mailto:kgimsf@aol.com) or [rcbimsf@cmcast.net](mailto:rcbimsf@cmcast.net). To contribute to the fund please send your donations to:

**Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund**  
825 College Blvd., Suite 102 PMB 609  
Oceanside, CA 92057

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